

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of T.L., J.L., and J.L., Minors.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

TERRY LITTERAL,

Respondent-Appellant.

UNPUBLISHED

January 23, 2001

No. 226272

Macomb Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 98-046297-NA

Before: Talbot, P.J., and O'Connell and Cooper, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent appeals as of right from a family court order terminating his parental rights to his minor children pursuant to MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (g), and (j); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(3)(c)(i), (g), and (j). We affirm.

Respondent contends that petitioner failed to present clear and convincing evidence to terminate his parental rights. We review for clear error a trial court's finding that petitioner proved statutory grounds for termination. *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 356; 612 NW2d 407 (2000); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989); MCR 5.974(I). After carefully reviewing the lower court record, particularly respondent's own testimony, we conclude that the trial court's conclusions were not clearly erroneous. These facts adduced at trial seriously drew into question the level of dedication that respondent had to his children and his willingness to improve his parenting skills after reaching his short-term goal of gaining their custody. Nor did the trial court err in declining to find that terminating respondent's parental rights was clearly not in the child's best interests. The evidence revealed that respondent was irresponsible and prone to neglecting his children, and his own testimony raised serious questions regarding his sincerity in improving his ability to parent.

Affirmed.

/s/ Michael J. Talbot

/s/ Peter D. O'Connell

/s/ Jessica R. Cooper